

## **Mughals: Evolution of Indian Administration**

In India, the Mughal Empire was one of the greatest empires ever. The Mughal Empire ruled hundreds of millions of people. India became united under one rule, and had very prosperous cultural and political years during the Mughal rule. It was started from 1526 and continued till 1858. It was a pompous word, relied fully on Quran, Islamic state and gave different treatment to different people. Yet its contribution is noteworthy and some are relevant even today. The empire started with Babur and ends with Bahadur Shah II. Let us analyse.

Akbar is considered as the real founder of Mughal system of Government and Administration. This dynasty flourished under Akbar, Jahangir, Shahjahan, and Aurangzeb. Later Mughal emperors were only helpless onlookers and finally the British East India Company emerged.

### **Salient Features of Mughal Administration**

#### **1. Military Rule-**

Government was based on a Military System.

Every official enrolled in army list

Strict Rule.

#### **2. Central Despotism**

All Powers and Functions are with Centre (King)

Centralized Administration no decentralization

#### **3. Different Treatment**

Other than Muslims all people were treated differently,

Jazia Tax, Pilgrimage taxes on non-Muslim

#### **4.No Cabinet**

All decision taken by King Unanimously, No cabinet to advise the king

#### **5.Various Department and Administration**

##### **6)Mansabdari System**

Akbar introduced the Mansabdari system in his administration.

It was a single service combining both military and civil responsibility

Under the Mansabdari system, every officer was assigned a rank called Mansab

Princes of royal blood received even higher ranks.

The ranks were divided into two types: Zat and Sawar.

Zat means personal and it fixes the personal status and salary of a person.

Sawar rank indicates the number of( Cavalrymen) troops of a person who was required to maintain.

Every sawar has to maintain at least two horses.

Dahbishti System-Every 10 Cavalrymen,the mansabdar had to maintain 20 horses

All appointments, promotions and dismissals were directly made by the emperor.

Mansab was not hereditary

**7)Non Secular**-There was a strong blend of religion

**8)Everything will be in Writing**

**9)Police State not welfare state**

## **Major Components of Governance**

**Emperor**-Enjoy real Sovereignty,Head of Civil,Military administration,Not accountable to people.Covered despotism

The King or the emperor was the head of the state.

He was the chief executive, law-maker, the commander-in-chief and the final dispenser of justice.

During the time of Akbar, the emperor was accepted as the final arbiter in case of difference of opinion regarding Islamic laws.

The emperor became the highest authority in the state.

The Hindu tradition of Divine Right was not forgotten and Akbar himself claimed to be “the shadow of God” or the “God’s representative on Earth”.

## **2.Central Administration**

Despotic Rulers who kept all control in their hands

No Cabinet

Highest Office-Head of Departments rather than Ministers(called Secretaries than Ministers)

Officers of the Mughal Empire (Centre)

**Wazir or Diwan (The Prime Minister)**

He was the head of the revenue department.

He looked after the income and expenditure of the state.

He also looked after the administration in the absence of Emperor.

### **The Mir Bakhsi (The Paymaster):**

He exercised a general control over the army.

He looked after the recruitment of the soldiers, branding of the horses and the elephants and also looked after all sorts of supplies to the army and training of the soldiers.

### **Sadr-i-Sudur:**

He advised the Emperor in all religious matters.

He looked after religious education, charity, recommended stipends and jagirs to scholar, ulemas, Qazis.

### **The Khan-i-Saman (Lord of High Steward):**

He was in charge of emperor's household establishment.

He looked after the personal necessities of the Emperor and his family.

His important duty was to manage the Karkhanas of the Emperor.

### **Qazi-ul-Quzat:**

He was the highest judicial officer of the state. He also appointed the Qazis in the provinces and districts.

### **The Muhtasib (Censorship of Public Morals):**

He looked after the moral development of the subjects. He also checked drinking of liquor, gambling and illicit relations between men and women.

**Mir-i-atish (Artillery):**

He was in charge of artillery.

**Daroga-i-dak-chauki (Intelligence and Post):**

He was in charge of intelligence department of the state.

**3.Provincial Administration**

Akbar-Organised provincial Administration

Divided empire into 12 division-Subah

Subha under Subedar

Sipahsalar	The Head executive		
Diwan	Incharge department	of	revenue
Bakshi	Incharge department	of	military
Sadr	Incharge department	of	judicial

**4)Local Administration**

Subha divided into number of Units called Sarkars

Each Sarkars divided into Parganas

Below Parganas there were Villages called Dihor Mawdah

### **Officers of the Mughal Empire (District)**

<b>Officer: District level</b>	<b>(Sarkar) Functions</b>
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Fauzdar	Administrative Head
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Amal/Amalguzar	Revenue collection
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Kotwal	Maintenance of law & order; trial of criminal cases; price regulation
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### **Officers of the Mughal Empire (Pargana)**

<b>Officer: Pargana</b>	<b>Functions</b>
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Shiqdar	Administrative head; combined fauzdar & kotwal
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Amin, Quanungo

Revenue officials

### Officers of the Mughal Empire (Village)

**Officer: Village**

**Functions**

Muqaddam

Headman

Patwari

Accountant

Chowkidar

Watchman

### 5.Mansabdari System

### 6.Military Administration

The Mughal army was divided into three types.

The first category was of the Mansabdars and their soldiers. Each Mansabdar kept his own army according to his rank and managed the recruitment, training and salaries of the soldiers.

The second category was of the Ahadi soldiers and they were the soldiers of the ruler.

The third type was of the Dakhili soldiers who were being appointed by the ruler himself but were put under the charge of the Mansabdars.

The Mughal army was divided into infantry, the cavalry, the war elephants and the navy.

## **7)Financial Administration**

Two ways-Religious Obligation-dues paid by muslims

Second-legitimate taxes

## **Principles followed during Mughal Rule**

**Hierarchy**

**Division of work**

**Unity of Command**

**Centralisation**

**Communication**

**What are relevant**

**1.Provincial Administration**

**2.District Administration**

**3.Agriculture**

**4.Land reforms**

**5.Government to take commercial activity**

**6.Kotwal**

**7.Fiscal Policy**

**8.Judicial System**